

Message Text

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17-12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-20 TRSE-00 EB-11 IO-14

SY-10 USSS-00 INT-08 FEA-02 FAA-00 CAB-09 DRC-01 /165 W

----- 031350

O 010500Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9976

INFO TOKYO IMMEDIATE 867

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

CINCPAC

WHITE HOUSE

CIA

DOD WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

DIA WASHDC

CINCPACFLT

COMSEVENTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 405

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 0400

1. AS OF 1030 FEBRUARY 1 FOUR TERRORISTS WERE STILL ABOARD SHELL FERRY BOAT LOCATED HALF MILE FROM CLIFFOR PIER AND SURROUNDED BY SINGAPORE MARINE POLICE BOATS. DURING NIGHT 2 OF 5 HOSTAGES ESCAPED BY JUMPING INTO WATER AND WERE RESCUED UNHARMED. EARLIER REPORT THAT ONE TERRORIST WAS LEFT BEHIND AT PULAU BUKUM WAS INCORRECT AND ORIGINATED FROM TERRORISTS AS DIVERSIONARY MOVE.

2. ACCORDING GOS SECURITY SOURCES TERRORIST ARE INSISTING ON SAFE PASSAGE TO UNSPECIFIED ARAB COUNTRY VIA JAL PLANE AND ACCOMPANIED BY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR UOMOTO. THEY ARE ALSO INSISTING ON BEING ALLOWED TO TAKE THEIR PLASTIC BOMBS AND WEAPONS ABOARD. WHEN ASKED TO NAME SPECIFIC COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, TERRORIST SAID THEY WOULD NOT DESIGNATE PARTICULAR COUNTRY UNTIL THEY WERE AIRBORNE.

3. ALTHOUGH JAL HAS DESIGNATED PLANE IN BANGKOK TO STAND BY, CREW HAS REFUSED TO FLY TERRORIST OUT OF SINGAPORE. CONSEQUENTLY GOS OFFERED SIA PLANE (WHICH NOW STANDING BY) AND 5 VOLUNTEERS FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT ARE PREPARED TO ACCOMPANY THIS FLIGHT. HOWEVER, THIS OFFER HAS BEEN REFUSED BY TERRORISTS. FURTHERMORE, ACCORDING GOS SOURCES, GOJ HAS INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR UOMOTO TO REFUSE TO ACCOMPANY TERRORISTS ON FLIGHT. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH TERRORISTS AT 0900 BUT SUBORDINATE OFFICER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS.

4. AT PRESS CONFERENCE EVENING JANUARY 31 GOS SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED WHY TERRORIST BEING GIVEN SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF SINGAPORE. HE SAID DECISION WAS BASED ON FACT THAT MINIMAL DAMAGE WAS DONE TO OIL STORAGE TANKS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT NO ONE WAS KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED AND BECAUSE OF A NEED TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE HOSTAGES. THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS WHETHER A SHELL SECURITY GUARD ON PULAU BUKUM WAS WOUNDED. EDITORIAL IN STRAITS TIMES WHILE AGREEING WITH "AGONIZING DECISION" MADE BY GOS COMMENTED " THAT AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION - BEING HELD TO RANSOM HAS THE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF LAYING ONESELF OPEN TO MORE BLACKMAIL. . . THE MESSAGE FOR ALL

TERRORIST MUST BE: NEXT TIME IT WILL NOT BE SO EASY,
NOR WILL YOU GET OFF SO LIGHTLY."

5. ACCORDING TO MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMAT IN SINGAPORE,
EGYPTIAN CHARGE SAMY WAS SUMMONED BY PRIME MINISTER LEE
KUAN YEW AT 1520 HOURS 31 JANUARY AND WAS ASKED WHETHER
HE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THE INCIDENT. SAMY REPLIED IN
NEGATIVE AND WAS BRIEFED BY LEE. SAMY WAS NOT ASKED
TO DO ANYTHING, BUT WAS STANDING BY TO BE OF
ASSISTANCE. AT 1745 HOURS 31 JANUARY EGYPTIAN EMBASSY
RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE HIJACKED FERRY BOAT ASKING
EGYPTIAN HELP TO INSURE THEIR SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF
SINGAPORE. THE CALLER WHO SPOKE IN ARABIC WOULD NOT
IDENTIFY HIMSELF, BUT SAID HE BELONGED TO THE SHAHID
BASEL AL-KOWASY FACTION OF THE PLO. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY
REPORTED THIS CALL TO LEE' OFFICE.

6. ALTHOUGH GOS SOURCES REPORT THAT FOUR TERRORISTS
INCLUDE 3 JAPANESE MALES AND ONE LIGHT-SKINNED MALE BELIEVED
TO BE AN ARAB, TERRORIST HAVE NOT YET BEEN SPECIFICALLY
IDENTIFIED. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR WHO SPOKE TO THE
TERRORIST SAID 2 OF THEM WERE STUDENTS WHO SPOKE
POLISHED JAPANESE. THEY CLAIMED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE
JAPANESE RED ARMY AND THE PEOPLE'S FRONT FOR THE
LIBERATION OF PALESTINE. THE 3 REMAINING HOSTAGES ARE
MOHAMED BIN NIK, PELOST BIN TRIS AND OMAR BIN AHMAD,
ALL MALAY MUSLIMS AND ALL CREW MEMBERS OF THE HIJACKED FERRY.

7. INITIAL NOTE FROM TERRORISTS TO SINGAPORE AUTHORITIES
CONTAINED FOLLOWING TEXT AS REPORTED STRAITS TIMES:

QUOTE: WE ARE JAPANESE RED ARMY AND POPULAR FRONT
FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, P.F.L.P. JUST NOW,
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WE EXPLODED THE PULAU BUKOM'S TANK FOR THE SOLIDARITY
WITH VIETNAMESE REVOLUTIONAL PEOPLE. AND FOR MAKING
THE REVOLUTIONAL SITUATION AFTER CONSIDERING THE
SITUATION OF TODAY'S OIL CRISIS. NOW WE WANT TO NEGOTIATION
WITH YOU. CALL AT ONCE, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR
HOSTAGES ARE IN OUR HAND. AND WE HAVE BIG EXPLOSIVES
WITH US. IF YOU LET US CARRIED TO THE AIRPORT, WE PROMISE
YOU NEVER KILL THEM. BUT IF YOU TRY TO ATTACK US,
WE EXPLODE OURSELVES. WE WANT TO ESCAPE TO ANOTHER
COUNTRY. UNQUOTE.

8. DAMAGE TO SHELL STORAGE TANKS ESTIMATED AT
US\$12,000; LOST OIL IS VALUED AT US\$6,000. TO BEST OF
EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE US HAS NO INTERESTS IN SHELL REFINERY
AND STORAGE FACILITY ON PULAU BUKOM.

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